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IMMEDIATE ACTION

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SUBJECT: MR. NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER DR. MIGNONE AND POLITICAL LEADER ALENDE

BH115

SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM MET SEPARATELY (AT THEIR REQUEST) WITH THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF THE ARGENTINE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, MIGNONE AND ALENDE ON JUNE 29 IN ORDER TO HIGHLIGHT OUR INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS. MIGNONE DWELT ON THE RIGHTS OF THE PERSON; ALENDE ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. MIGNONE SAID THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY HAD RECEIVED SOME 40 REPORTS OF NEW DISAPPEARANCES IN MAY AND 12 - 15

REPORTS IN JUNE. THERE WERE PROBABLY MORE. HE PROMISED TO FURNISH THE NAMES TO THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

2. DR. MIGNONE SPOKE OF THE "WAR DOCTRINE" OF THE ARGENTINE MILITARY - ILLUSTRATING THE ANYTHING GOES ATTITUDE WITH THE STORY OF THE TORTURE OF A PARTIALLY PARALYZED WOMAN PSYCHIATRIST. WHILE THERE WERE UNCOORDINATED SECURITY FORCES ACTIONS, THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP'S EXPOUSAL OF THE "WAR DOCTRINE" GAVE BLANKET SANCTION TO DISAPPEARANCES. NONETHELESS, HE HAD SOME INDICATIONS (E.G., A

RECENT ARTICLE IN LA PRENSA) THAT THE JUNTA WOULD MOVE TO END DISAPPEARANCES AND TO ACCOUNT IN SOME FASHION FOR THE DISAPPEARED.

3. ASKED ABOUT MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY'S RECENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE POLICE TO CONTROL EXCESSES, MIGNONE REPLIED THAT THIS HAD ANGERED THE POLICE WHO FELT THE MINISTER WAS PUBLICLY BLAMING THEM, INSTEAD OF THE MILITARY, FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. MIGNONE SAID THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY HAD RECENTLY PRESENTED A STATEMENT TO THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT PRESSING THEM TO ACT ON THE 50,000 PLUS OUTSTANDING WRITS OF HABEAS CORPUS. MR. NEWSOM SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION, DURING HIS CALL ON THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THAT THE ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT HAS NOT BEEN OVERLY ACTIVE.

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(51/52)

UNCLASSIFIED

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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4. MIGNONE HIGHLIGHTED THE EXPLOSIVE NATURE OF THE DISAPPEARED PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT SECURITY FORCES PERSONNEL WHO HAVE COMMITTED EXCESSES ARE RESPONSIBLE UNDER THE LAW. IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES ISSUE A LIST OF PEOPLE KILLED BY THE SECURITY FORCES, THEIR RELATIVES WILL HAVE A RIGHT TO DEMAND A FOLLOW-UP ON THIS INFORMATION THROUGH THE COURTS. THERE WILL BE A DESIRE FOR REVENGE ONCE THE GOVERNMENT ALLOWS SUCH PROTESTS TO SURFACE FREELY.

5. ALENDE, AS IS HIS CUSTOM, TALKED AT GREAT LENGTH, BUT THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS PRESENTATION AND RESPONSES TO MR. NEWSOM IS AS FOLLOWS:

--THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF VIDELA'S PROTEGE, ECONOMY MINISTER MARTINEZ DE HOZ, COULD EVEN DRIVE THE WORKING CLASS INTO THE HANDS OF THE GUERRILLAS. THEY CERTAINLY THREATEN VIDELA'S POSITION VIS A VIS THE REAL HARDLINE "ARISTOCRATIC NATIONALISTS" IN THE MILITARY. HE CITED THE AIR FORCE AND GENERAL AGOSTI'S "GO IT ALONE" SPEECH.

--HE THOUGHT REAL PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBABLY REQUIRED MOVEMENT TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, IN HIS VIEW A REALIZABLE GOAL. HE WANTED PARLIAMENTS FROM DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES - HE CITED HIS CONVERSATIONS IN SPAIN - TO COME TO ARGENTINA AND LEND SYMBOLIC SUPPORT. HE ALSO TOLD US HOW MUCH HE APPRECIATED SENATOR KENNEDY'S KINDNESS IN MEETING HIM.

--IN RESPONSE TO MR. NEWSOM'S QUESTION OF HOW THE U.S. COULD HELP IN THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, HE PRAISED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ATTITUDE AND THE ATTITUDE OF THE WESTERN EUROPEANS, WHICH HAD MADE THE

WORLD MORE LONELY FOR REPRESSIVE MILITARY REGIMES. HE THAN CRITICIZED OUR TACTICS, CITING OUR NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON EXPORT-IMPORT BANK FINANCING FOR THE YACYRETA HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT AS RUNNING COUNTER TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

6. MR. NEWSOM MADE CLEAR TO BOTH OUR INTEREST IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. PATT DERIAN, MCNEIL, MILLER AND BUMPUS ATTENDED THE MIGNONE MEETING, MCNEIL AND MRS. VAN REIGERSBERG (INTERPRETER) THE ALENDE MEETING. THE TWO AGREED TO GIVE NO PUBLICITY TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETINGS.

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